

Application No. 10/518,643
Amendment dated April 24, 2008
Reply to Office Action of January 29, 2008

Docket No.: 21900-00052-US1

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet(s) of drawings includes changes to Figures 8 and 11.

Attachments: Two (2) Sheets - Figures 8 and 11

REMARKS

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-11 and 13 stand rejected under 35USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ashenfelter (U.S.P 4,576,555) in view of Fritchman (U.S.P 5,118,263) and further in view of Mangyo (U.S.P 5,252,039). Claims 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ashenfelter-Fritchman-Mangyo combination of prior art references as applied to Claims 1-11 and 13 above, and further in view of Hayashi (U.S.P 5,506,486). Claim 16 stands rejected under 35USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ashenfelter (U.S.P 4,576,555) in view of Fritchman (U.S.P 5,118,263)

To expedite the prosecution, claims 1 and 16 have been amended by adding a feature related to the structure of the oil fence.

Now the differences between the present invention defined by amended claims 1 and 16 and the combination of the cited prior art references will be discussed hereinbelow.

As clearly shown in Fig. 3 of Mangyo, the annular flange 38a, forms an oil sump 39 which temporarily retains lubricant oil 33 flowing downward due to gravity after flowing out of the first outlet 37b. On the other hand, the oil fence utilized according to the present invention, has a vertical wall which intersects with an extension of the direction of radially scattering of the lubricating oil due to a centrifugal force from the oil feed mechanism.

As a result, the differences between the present invention and Mangyo in connection with the oil sump and or oil fence are as follows:

(1) Mangyo does not teach the use of a sub ball bearing. In other words, the disclosed oil sump 39 is not provided to a sub ball bearing.

(2) In the arrangement of Mangyo, the lubricant oil does not scatter radially due to a centrifugal force.

(3) Mangyo does not teach the use of a vertical wall which intersects with an extension of the direction of radially scattering of the lubricating oil due to a centrifugal force from the oil feed mechanism. In other words, according to Mangyo, neither the sub ball bearing nor the cylinder block has such a vertical wall.

Due to the above differences, the arrangement according to Mangyo does not have a function of collecting the lubricating oil in such a manner that the lubricating oil radially scattering due to a centrifugal force collides a vertical wall which intersects with an extension of the direction of radially scattering of the lubricating oil thereby preventing the lubricating from reaching the inside wall of the hermetic vessel of the hermetic compressor. Since none of the cited references teaches the above-mentioned function provided by the present invention, the present invention now defined by the amended claims 1 and 16 is believed to be patentably distinguishable from any combinations of the cited references. Remaining claims are dependent from claim 1 either directly or indirectly, and thus allowable when claim 1 is allowed.

In response to the drawing objection, Fig. 11 has been amended. In addition, Fig. 8 has also been amended to insert a reference numeral mentioned in the specification.

It is believed that all of the objections and rejections will be overcome by the current amendment. Reconsideration and an early allowance are respectfully solicited.

In view of the above, consideration and allowance are, therefore, respectfully solicited.

In the event the Examiner believes an interview might serve to advance the prosecution of this application in any way, the undersigned attorney is available at the telephone number noted below.

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The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees, or credit any overpayment, associated with this communication, including any extension fees, to CBLH Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 21900-00052-US1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: April 24, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

Electronic signature: /Morris Liss/
Morris Liss
Registration No.: 24,510
CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP
1875 Eye Street, NW
Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 331-7111
(202) 293-6229 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicant